

Customer No.: 31561
Docket No.: 11399-US-PA
Application No.: 10/707,085

REMARKS

Present Status of the Application

Claims 1-5 and 7-9 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Sekine (U.S. Patent 6,580,486). In addition, claims 1-4 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,097,457). Claim 21 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103() as being unpatentable over Kim (U. S. Patent No. 6,097,457). In addition, claim 6 is objected to as being dependent upon a rejected base claim, but would be allowable if rewritten in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims. Applicants have amended claim 1, 4 and cancelled claims 3, 5 and 6. After entry of amendments, claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9 and 21 remain pending in the present application, and reconsideration of those claims is respectfully requested.

Applicants appreciate that claim 6 is objected but considered to be allowable. In response thereto, Applicants have rewritten claim 6 in independent form including all of the limitations of the base claim and other intervening claims.

For at least the foregoing reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that independent claim 1 patently define over the prior art references, and should be allowed. For at least the same reasons, dependent claims 2, 4, 7-9 and 21 patently define over the prior art references as well.

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CONCLUSION

For at least the foregoing reasons, it is believed that all the pending claims 1, 2, 4, 7-9 and 21 of the invention patently define over the prior art and are in proper condition for allowance. If the Examiner believes that a telephone conference would expedite the examination of the above-identified patent application, the Examiner is invited to call the undersigned.

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Respectfully submitted,

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